Government has received an appeal from Prof. Indira Goswami for "Peace Talks" with the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA). The appeal indicated the willingness of ULFA to hold talks with the Government of India without pre-conditions, and also specifically referred to their 'core demand' of sovereignty. In reply to the appeal it was reiterated that the Government of India had consistently expressed its willingness to talk to all groups, which were prepared to abjure the path of violence.

Secret Meeting between PWG and ULFA

†2107. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a secret meeting was held between Naxalite leaders (PWG) and ULFA in Dhaka in October, 2004;

(b) any other information received by Government in this regard; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Kidnapping of NHPC Engineers

†2108. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the central point behind the incident of kidnapping of General Manager and Chief Engineer of National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) in Vaishali, Bihar on 20th November, 2004;

(b) the main motive for this kidnapping and the organization responsible mainly for the same; and

(c) what action Government of India are taking for the release of these two senior officials of NHPC from the kidnappers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) The Government of Bihar has informed that an FIR was registered under sections 395/364A/120 of IPC

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

regarding kidnapping of the General Manager and Chief Engineer of National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) for ransom and looting of chain, ring, mobile phone and a vehicle. As a result of police action, the General Manager was rescued on 16.11.2004 and the Chief Engineer on 4.12.2004 without paying any ransom. Five accused persons have been arrested in this case.

Demand for Economic Package by Madhya Pradesh

2109. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted any comprehensive programme for all round development of the State, bring out from BIMARU category and has demanded any economic package from the Centre to help it out;

(b) if so, details thereof and the package sought by the State; and

(c) the Central Government's response and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh submitted a Memorandum to the hon'ble Prime Minister on 15.7.2004 desiring a special economic package citing specific issues relating to high poverty ratio and employment for BPL families, golden Quadrilateral and rural roads, power sector issues, conservation and protection of forest cover, Pench irrigation projects and Mid-day Meal scheme etc.

The State Government is being assisted through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and one time Additional Central Assistance (ACA) provided at the time of finalisation of Annual Plans. The State Government was provided one time ACA of Rs. 56.78 crore during Annual Plan 2004-05.

Indo-UK Agreement Regarding Illegal Immigrants

2110. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and U.K. have recently negotiated an agreement for the return of illegal immigrants to the country of their origin;